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Thursday, January 21, 2016 metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNewYork

BOLARIS: MAJOR STORM LOOMS

A foot of snow possible, coastal flooding likely. 4-5

Ride out winter with fireside cocktails. 19

Rangers, Isles in top 10 of power rankings. 21

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PEDAL IT FORWARD

A Kickstarter campaign
for a company that will
employ the homeless to
make bamboo bicycles
and that will distribute
bikes to the needy. 6

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POPE'S FIAT TO AUCTION

1 The Fiat 500L that ferried Pope Francis to the White House and Congress during his historic first visit to the U.S. will be auctioned in Philadelphia next week. The car the Pontiff chose as a symbol of his concern for the environment and desire to put aside some of the rich trappings long associated with his office, will be auctioned off on Jan. 29, said organizers of last year's World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia. **REUTERS**



BITCOIN TO LAUNDER

2 Ten men suspected of using the digital currency Bitcoin to launder up to \$22 million of criminal money made from on-line drug deals have been arrested in the Netherlands, Dutch prosecutors said on Wednesday. The men, described as all in their 20s and with Dutch nationality, were arrested on Tuesday in coordinated raids on 15 locations around the country, said spokeswoman Valentine Hoen of the country's Fiscal Information and Investigation Service. **REUTERS**

ACCUSED VEGAS DRIVER

3 An Oregon woman accused of plowing into pedestrians on the Las Vegas Strip faces dozens of additional charges, including attempted murder, in connection with the Dec. 20 incident, a Nevada judge said at a hearing on Wednesday. Lakeisha Holloway, 24, is charged with 71 counts, including murder. **REUTERS**



BOMB-SNIFFING K-9

7 Transportation Security Administration K-9 handler Tommy Karathomas and his explosive detection dog Buddy perform a demonstration at LaGuardia Airport on Wednesday.

7
THINGS YOU
NEED TO KNOW



ALL PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

BARNEYS DISCRIMINATION

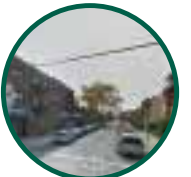
4 Barneys New York has agreed to settle a lawsuit brought by a black man who said he was racially profiled while shopping at the luxury Manhattan department store and questioned by police about a purchase, according to court documents filed on Tuesday. Trayon Christian, a technical college student from Queens, had sued Barneys and the city of New York claiming his civil rights were violated when he was handcuffed and detained by police for two hours in April, 2013 after buying a \$349 Ferragamo belt with his savings. **REUTERS**

PUERTO RICO DEBT

5 U.S. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew said that while the Obama administration was ready to do all it could to help debt-ridden Puerto Rico, only Congress could deliver truly effective change. Lew, speaking in San Juan where he met with the island's governor Alejandro Garcia Padilla, last week urged Congress to urgently pass legislation by the end of March to help the island, struggling with \$70 billion debt. He has called for legislation to allow Puerto Rico to restructure its debts paired with independent fiscal oversight. **REUTERS**

BICYCLIST KILLED

6 Police search for the truck driver who fatally struck a bicyclist before driving off in Brooklyn Tuesday night. The driver was traveling westbound on Avenue U, past the intersection of East 9th Street in Sheepshead Bay, when it struck the 54-year-old bicyclist who was riding parallel and in the same direction as the vehicle. **METRO**



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SEVERE SNOWSTORM

Bolaris' Weather Watch



As this goes to print, computer models are converging on a high-impact winter storm that will strike the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic starting for the Northeast corridor by day's end Friday and then working its way into New York City by Friday night and finally into Boston by early Saturday morning.

The bull's-eye seems to be pointing toward D.C. to Philly to New York City and New Jersey with the potential for a severe impact. There is still the question of just how much of an impact will be felt into Boston, as models still diverge on the exact northern extent of this soon-to-be-intense nor'easter. Blizzard watches are already flying across our nation's capital, as it will get whacked first and possibly the hardest.

This is what we do know as of 1 p.m. Wednesday (this will be refined and adjusted as we get closer to crunch time).

The set-up:
By Friday morning a rapidly intensifying



Gird your backs and break out your shovels. **NICOLAUS CZARNECKI**

storm will be taking shape somewhere along the North Carolina coastline. An arctic high will be funneling down cold air into the system at the same time the Gulf Stream helps to fuel the storm, with a rapidly expanding heavy snow, sleet and rain shield moving north.

Snow will arrive in the D.C. region during the afternoon Friday. Snow will arrive in

Philadelphia by the evening commute (between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.).

Snow will arrive in NYC between 9 p.m. and midnight.

Snow will arrive in Boston by daybreak Saturday.

The best chances of snow mixing with rain and sleet will be from the I-95 corridor and points east.

If the storm reaches its full potential, 1 to 2 feet

Psychologist offers advice

Snowstorms, like the one set to slam the Northeast this weekend, and their aftermath can be stressful not only on our backs, but on our minds.

The broadcasted build-up often causes people to flood the supermarkets in search of bread, eggs, milk and toilet paper. The pileups keep people trapped inside their homes. And then there's the Herculean task of finding a parking space after digging your car out.

"It sure has been stressful, and stress has a loss of control and unpredictability," Joe Tecce, a professor of psychology at Boston College, told Metro. "When we are im-

"Cabin fever is very real, and getting out of the four walls is a major relief."

Tecce

mobilized, it heightens our sense of stress. Then there are the unpredictable elements: "When is the next one coming? How many more will there be?" These are things that add to the tension."

But Tecce said while storms cause mental

angst, it doesn't take much to alleviate the tension.

"Immobilization is a major source of stress, when you can't move or can't get there easily, the muscles get much more tense," Tecce said. "Cabin fever is very real, and getting out of the four walls is a major relief."

Tecce suggests relatively simple methods of keeping your cool in the face of blizzards and their aftermath.

Simple communication between neighbors, friends and family can change the course of one's anguish as snow paralyzes the area.

"Just being able to commiserate with

LOOMING: BOLARIS



of snow could fall along or just west of the I-95 corridor from D.C. to Philly to New York City. Boston should remain all snow.

The best chances of 12+ will be from just west of Philly to just northwest of New York City, and D.C.

Coastal sections, especially the New Jersey and Delaware coastline, will experience major tidal flooding, major beach erosion, and

winds that will gust to storm force 50 mph+ (storm force = 39 mph).

Coastal sections will experience heavy wet snow changing to wind-driven rain, and then back to snow before generally ending Sunday later in the day and at night farther north.

The storm will be of unusually long duration of at least 48 hours of high-impact weather.

Blizzard conditions likely for the Northeast corridor. Visibilities will drop to whiteout conditions.

The major cities along the I-95 corridor (except Boston) should see at least some mixing of rain and sleet and possibly a changeover to all rain for a time, before changing back to snow. This will cause considerable differences in the heavy snow amounts.

Power outages will be common.

Tree limbs will snap.

More updates and fine tuning of the storm's impact will be made as new guidance comes in.

I would strongly suggest for you to be where you want to be no later than 5 p.m. Friday as travel will eventually get shut down if this pending nor'easter reaches its full potential.

NY impact

- Snow arrives between 9 p.m. and midnight. Friday night.
- Saturday: Heavy snow and wind, 12+ inches possible by the time it ends Sunday evening.
- Possible mixing of sleet and rain (even a change over to rain can't be ruled out before changing back to snow).
- Snow amounts dependent on mixing.
- All snow northwest of city.
- Eastern Long Island: Heavy snow to sleet, possibly to all rain, then back to snow. 12+ inches still possible even with mixing, as prolonged backlash likely.
- Moderate to major tidal flooding
- High tidal surges along beaches on the north and south shores
- Power outages
- Storm pulls away after 5 p.m. Sunday

for snowstorm stress relief



Aftermath of snowstorm in 2015, a scene some people see in their nightmares. PROVIDED

people helps because you get the sense that you're not alone in this struggle," Tecce said.

Compassion is another means of obtaining a sense of calm under pressure, he said.

"If you go shovel with

your neighbor, go share a laugh with someone waiting for the bus or the subway, encourage one another that winter is finite and we're all in this together, you share a sense of community," Tecce said. "Being able

to control a compliment or boost someone else's spirits means that you have hope within yourself and have the ability to share it."

Setting obtainable goals is also paramount in maintaining a level head.

"Fight back against depression, because snow is finite," Tecce said. "See that there is a pot of gold at the end of the white-evil rainbow. It will melt. Do not be inactive. Move around, kick the snow, curse it and go home and get warm. Don't give up total control. Don't give up your routine. Keep continuity going. Don't become lethargic."

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'Pedal Forward' with bamboo bikes

A project will offer affordable bikes that will benefit developing countries and offer jobs to homeless New Yorkers.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO
@MetroNewYork
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A project that blossomed from a lifelong love of cycling may soon change the lives of people locally — and around the world.

Pedal Forward — founded by college friends Matthew Wilkins and Christopher Deschenes in 2012 — is the company behind a line of affordable bamboo bicycles that will also support access to bicycles in developing countries.

The idea sprouted from Wilkins' love of bike riding, which developed during long family bike rides during vacations. What started as small rides became long ones

stretching from his home in Long Island to places like Boston and Montreal.

Wilkins went on to study engineering at George Washington University and took courses in manufacturing, which made him think about building a bicycle.

Although the process of constructing a bike was too much for the class, Wilkins' desire was still there.

"I said I love bikes, I love building things, it's time for me to build a bike," Wilkins said. "I decided I wanted to build a bike but the question was, what do I build it out of?"

Wilkins did some research and discovered the concept of bamboo bicycles, which date back to the 1890s.

He remembered his family home had bamboo growing in the backyard, so he chopped some down and built his first bike. Although the first model needed improvement, Wilkins said it was



Bamboo bike PROVIDED

proof that it could be done.

Deschenes encouraged Wilkins to take part in the Clinton Global Initiative University conference and submit the project, which won the CGI U Commitment Bracket.

Wilkins then spent time refining the bike model, going through different prototypes, testing

"I decided I wanted to build a bike but the question was, what do I build it out of?" Wilkins

different designs, until finally creating the current bicycle.

By narrowing production time to two hours per bike, each Pedal Forward bicycle is only \$500 — compared to other

bamboo bikes that start at \$2,000. Wilkins also added that bamboo allows the bicycles to be lightweight and shock-absor-

bent, along with looking unique.

The company plans to take a percentage of each local bicycle sale and use the money to purchase bicycles from independent dealers in developing countries. Those bikes would then be given to partners who would then distribute them to groups in need.

In the next few years, they would like to be able to build the bamboo bicycles in the developing countries and be able to provide jobs while also offering the bicycles at a lower price.

With the plan all ready to roll out, the next hurdle the group will have to pedal through is raising a goal of \$40,000 via a Kickstarter campaign. The funds will go toward opening a manufacturing shop either in Long Island City or the Bronx and also bulk order bicycle components.

"We have this product, we love it and we think that people love it

Pedal Forward

Wednesday, Jan. 27
5:30-8:30 p.m.
WeWork, 81 Prospect St., Brooklyn
To celebrate their Kickstarter campaign and give people the opportunity to see and feel the bicycles, Pedal Forward will hold a free party.

and we need to raise [the money] in order to fulfill our goal," Wilkins said.

Pedal Forward has also partnered up with Back on My Feet — a national organization that aims to use running to help homeless individuals change their lives. Pedal Forward plans to hire individuals that come through the organization to manufacture the bicycles.

"I hope that [people] share our values and see the impact that we are trying to do and see how important it is," Wilkins said.

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BRIEFS

NYPD received ISIS-related threat to shoot cops

Police are on high alert Wednesday after receiving an ISIS-related threat indicating someone was going to shoot an officer, according to reports.

The NYPD was contacted by police out of Philadelphia after they received an anonymous tip that someone was looking to shoot a cop in either city, CBS reported. The Philadelphia police investigated the call and found

that it had come from an address in Manhattan.

An anonymous call was then made to an NYPD detective squad stating that a local man — who may have pledged allegiance to ISIS — may be armed and threatening to shoot a cop, according to NBC.

Police reportedly know the individual they are looking for and added that he has a criminal record, CBS said. Authorities also want to make sure the public

knows the alert is to police officers not the public at large.

This threat comes weeks after a Philadelphia police officer was shot and seriously wounded after being ambushed by a gunman who claimed to have pledged allegiance to Islamic State militants.

The suspect, later identified as 30-year-old Edward Archer, confessed to committing the act “in the name of Islam,” according to authorities. **METRO**



NYPD cruiser FILE PHOTO

Man faces 10 years after ditching trial, Instagrams prosecutor

Ronald DeJesus Plaza was convicted of attacking a stranger outside a Bronx club.

CRISTABELLE TUMOLA
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

He may be sipping rum somewhere now, but this convicted criminal won't be enjoying his drink of choice once he's behind bars.

Ronald DeJesus Plaza, 25, was arrested in 2014 for a June attack on a stranger who had just come out of a nightclub on Aqueduct Avenue in the Kingsbridge section of the Bronx, the district attorney's office said.

“Plaza not only punched his victim in the face and broke his nose, but also slashed him numerous times in the face as one other unapprehended man held the victim and stabbed him in the back multiple times. The victim suffered injuries that required nearly two dozen stitches and staples to his face and head,” the DA described in a statement.

Plaza turned himself in to police 11 days later. He was on trial for the brutal crime in December 2015 and about to be sentenced when he decided to flee.

Following the two-week long jury trial, closing arguments were delivered on Thursday, Dec. 3.

The next day, Plaza never showed up to court and a bench warrant was issued for his arrest.

The jury was told to still deliberate and on Monday, Dec. 7, he was found guilty.

Over that weekend,



Plaza and his rum-soaked Instagram taunt BRONX DA'S OFFICE

Plaza, instead of keeping a low profile, decided to have a little fun with the prosecutor.

“At some point over the weekend, Plaza posted to an Instagram account a photo of a highly rated and expensive rum, with a message directed at the assistant DA prosecuting the case: ‘Salute Mr. Miller, this is a good rum,’ according to the district attorney's office.

Plaza was sentenced on Wednesday, in absentia, to 10 years in prison followed by five years post-release supervision.

The Westchester resident also has an open arrest warrant in that county for failing to appear before a court on an attempted murder case.

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Fight the birthday-industrial complex

Parents can battle against the birthday budget bulge.

If you thought children's birthday parties are little more than a couple of streamers, a few balloons and a cake, think again.

"It is getting a little ridiculous," said Rachel Cruze, co-author of the book "Smart Money Smart Kids." "It has become a lot more about the parents than about the kids."

While an over-the-top birthday will cost thousands of dollars, even a run-of-the-mill package at a chain restaurant can hit several hundred, or much more in some locales.

Popular kids' spot Chuck E. Cheese, for instance, charges roughly \$18 per guest for pizza, drinks, a reserved table, party favors and tokens. A Bounce U party for 15



It's your birthday and you can pay out of the nose if you want to. **ISTOCK**

with pizza runs \$300 or more, depending on the location.

The bill is high even when children are too young to remember the event. According to a poll by website BabyCenter.com, 26 percent of parents report spending more than \$500 for the first birthday party alone.

Nonprofit director Jen Wohl of Brooklyn, New York, decided she just could not afford to keep up anymore. So her son's last birthday party consisted of a gathering with friends in a public playground, some home-baked coffee cake and brownies. Total: \$50.

Her verdict: It was the best decision she ever made. "I just thought, 'What is it my kid really likes to do?'" she said. "I realized that a good football game with 10 of his friends would be way more fun for him than a big \$2,000 party."

Some tips for hosting an affordable birthday party for your precious little one:

Get creative

Kids adore sleepovers, which will let you skip the retail markups. Or you can gather in a public park with a few picnic tables and have a potluck, suggested Cruze.

Brooklyn's Wohl once asked local firefighters for a tour of the firehouse for 10 kids. "Throwing money at something is actually the least creative thing you could do to celebrate your child," she said.

Limit the numbers

One reason behind whopping birthday bills: Parents and children feel obligated to invite everyone in their kid's class, or to invite everyone who has ever invited them.

Succumbing to Chuck E. Cheese? Keep that celebration to 10 kids instead of 40, and save 75 percent.

Make it a splurge

A big birthday party once in a while can be fun, but it does not have to be every single year.

"One of the things I have practiced personally is to only have one child have a 'big birthday' each year," said Chris Hardy, a financial planner in Suwanee, Georgia. "I have three kids, and they rotate which year is the big year for their party."

For bigger milestones like bar mitzvahs or sweet 16s, for instance, feel free to loosen the purse strings. Otherwise, keep it cheaper and low-key.

Use it as a teachable moment

Children learn from every financial decision you make, whether you realize it or not. One way to make it count is to do something like turn a birthday into a fundraiser.

Charity: Water, a nonprofit organization working to bring people clean drinking water, said its average birthday campaign raised \$770.

REUTERS

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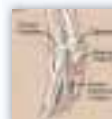
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Congressional committee subpoenas ex-drug CEO Shkreli

Shkreli pleaded not guilty last month to criminal charges that he ran his companies like a Ponzi scheme, using each subsequent company to pay off defrauded investors from a prior company.

A U.S. congressional committee has demanded that former drug executive Martin Shkreli appear at a hearing on drug prices to testify about his former company's decision to raise the price of a lifesaving drug by more than 5,000 percent, congressional aides said on Wednesday.

Shkreli, who is separately facing federal criminal charges that he defrauded investors, has been served with a sub-



Martin Shkreli GETTY IMAGES

poena to appear on Jan. 26 before the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the aides said.

Shkreli, 32, fired back at lawmakers on Twitter, writing on Wednesday that the House was "busy whining to healthcare reporters about me appearing for their chit chat

next week. Haven't decided yet. Should I?"

The outspoken entrepreneur sparked a firestorm last year after he raised the price of Daraprim, a decades-old treatment for a dangerous parasitic infection, to \$750 a pill from \$13.50 after acquiring it. The medicine once sold for \$1 a pill.

After his arrest, he stepped down as chief executive of Turing Pharmaceuticals and was fired as chief executive of KaloBios Pharmaceuticals Inc. KaloBios also filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

Shkreli's past companies also include Retrophin Inc, which sued him for alleged mismanagement. **REUTERS**

Wal-Mart to hike pay for 1.2M workers

Wal-Mart Stores said more than 1.2 million of its employees would get a raise in 2016 and introduced new rules allowing staff to carry over paid days off as the retailer aims to retain workers amid a tight U.S. labor market.

The steps are part of a previously outlined two-year \$2.7 billion investment in wages, benefits and training. The company said the measures are incorporated in financial forecasts unveiled to investors in October.

In a statement, Wal-Mart said all employees hired before Jan. 1, 2016 would earn at least \$10 an hour, up from the \$9 minimum.

Wal-Mart said the raises, which will take effect on Feb. 20, would rank as one of the largest single-day private-sector pay increases ever. Wal-Mart employs 1.4 million workers in the United States and 2.2 million globally.

Wal-Mart has said its investment in wages - the move to increase entry-level pay to \$9 an hour was implemented in April of last year - has weighed on its profits but has also led to improved customer service, helping lift U.S. sales recently.

"We're seeing strong increases in both customer experience and associate engagement scores," Judith McKenna, chief operating officer for Wal-Mart's U.S. operations, said in the statement.

The announcement came just a few days after Wal-Mart said it was closing 154 U.S. stores and 115 overseas. The move affected about U.S. 10,000 workers, although Wal-Mart said it was aiming to transfer many to nearby stores.

Wal-Mart said the latest raise would increase the average full-time hourly wage to \$13.38 and average part-time wage to \$10.58. It did not provide current average figures. **REUTERS**



Wal-Mart employees GETTY IMAGES

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Black Lives Matter protesters interrupt US mayors' conference

Demonstrators from the Black Lives Matter movement interrupted the U.S. Conference of Mayors' meeting on Wednesday, protesting the killing of a Chicago teenager by police and the lead-tainted water supply of Flint, Michigan.

At least three people among onlookers and one person on stage held up signs when Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, the group's president, spoke during the meeting's opening news conference at a hotel in Washington, D.C.

One protester interrupted her several times, shouting, "You failed us!" Baltimore was torn in April by rioting over the death of black detainee Freddie Gray, and six police officers



A protestor holds up a placard as Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake (L) speaks at the 84th winter meeting of the US Conference of Mayors. GETTY IMAGES

are facing charges.

A protester also held up a sign onstage that said, "16 Shots is a cover up. #LaquanMcDonald #ResignRahm."

The 2014 shooting death of Laquan McDonald, a black teenager, by a Chicago police officer has led to calls for Mayor Rahm Emanuel to step down. Emanuel has been

the target of protests because of the year-long delay in bringing charges against the officer.

The deaths of Gray and McDonald were among a series of police killings of black males that have fueled the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement and stoked a national debate on race and policing. REUTERS

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

SUMMARY NOTICE OF PROPOSED CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

IF MEL HARRIS & ASSOCIATES, LLC/LR CREDIT CLAIMS YOU OWE A DEBT
YOU MAY BE PART OF A CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

What is this lawsuit about? Am I part of the lawsuit?

This is a notice of a proposed Settlement with the Defendants (LR Credit, Mel Harris & Associates, LLC and Samserv) in a class action lawsuit known as *Sykes v. Mel S. Harris and Associates, LLC*, No. 09 Civ. 8486 (S.D.N.Y.). Defendants have agreed to settle claims that they violated the law by allegedly submitting false affidavits to the Court to obtain default judgments. Defendants deny that they did anything wrong. The Court has not decided whether Plaintiffs' claims have merit.

To be a part of the settlement, you must have had an alleged consumer debt that was owned by LR Credit. Other debts are not part of the settlement.

You can check if you are part of the Settlement by going to www.sykesclassaction.com or calling the Administrator at (877) 868-0034.

What does the Settlement provide?

Money Settlement: Defendants agreed to a Money Settlement of \$54,492,500 plus additional money collected until the Settlement is finally approved by the Court. Class members who paid money to LR Credit or whose default judgment LR Credit sold are eligible to receive some of the Money Settlement (after Court-approved costs are deducted). The money will be divided according to a formula that must be approved by the Court. Eligible Class Members must submit a Claim Form that is received by April 7, 2016 to get money. You can get a claim form at www.sykesclassaction.com.

Injunctive Settlement: If the Settlement is approved by the Court, LR Credit will transfer all debts it owns to an entity chosen by Plaintiffs, at which point collection of those debts will stop forever, and Plaintiffs will work with the New York State courts to try to vacate all judgments LR Credit obtained. You do not need to submit a Claim Form to have collections on your LR Credit debt stop.

The Settlement must be approved by the Court. Eligible class members will not receive any money unless the Settlement is approved. This will not occur until (at the earliest) sometime in Summer 2016. Collection of LR Credit debts is being stopped for now, and will stop forever if the Settlement is approved. If you are making payments on an LR Credit debt, you should stop now.

What are my other rights?

If you are a class member, your legal rights will be affected, whether or not you act. Here are your options:

- **Remain in the Settlement.** If you do nothing or submit a Claim Form, you will give up your legal rights to bring claims against Defendants regarding debt collection activities on behalf of LR Credit. To receive money in the Settlement, eligible class members must submit a Claim form that is received by April 7, 2016. You can also object to or comment on the Settlement, and you have a right to appear in Court. All objections must be made in writing and received by April 14, 2016.
- **"Opt out" of the Money Settlement.** Eligible class members can opt out of the Money settlement and keep any right they may have to sue to recover money damages from Defendants. Class Members who opt out of the Money Settlement are still Class Members for the Injunctive Settlement, which means (a) collections on your LR Credit debt will stop forever, and (b) you will not be able to bring another lawsuit against Defendants for injunctive relief concerning LR Credit debts. All requests to opt out of the Money Settlement must be made in writing and received by April 14, 2016. *Class members who opt out will not receive any money.*

The Court will decide whether to approve the Settlement at a fairness hearing, currently scheduled for **May 11, 2016** at 11:00 a.m. at the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, located at 40 Foley Square, New York, New York, 10007 in Courtroom 519. The Court has appointed Class Counsel to represent all Class Members. Class Counsel will be paid out of the Settlement Fund: there is no cost to you. You can also hire your own attorney at your own cost.

**This is only a Summary of the Proposed Settlement.
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Militants storm Pakistan university, kill at least 20

The violence shows that militants retain the ability to launch attacks, despite a country-wide anti-terrorism crackdown and a military campaign against their strongholds along the Afghanistan border.

Armed militants stormed a university in volatile northwestern Pakistan on Wednesday, killing at least 20 people and wounding dozens a little more than a year after the massacre of 134 students at a school in the area, officials said.

A Pakistani Taliban commander claimed responsibility for the assault in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, but an official

spokesman later denied involvement, calling the attack "un-Islamic."

A security official said the death toll could rise to as high as 40 at Bacha Khan University in the city of Charsadda. The army said it had concluded operations to clear the campus six hours after the attack began, and that four gunmen were dead.

A spokesman for rescue workers, Bilal Ahmad Faizi, said 19 bodies had been recovered including students, guards, policemen and at least one teacher, named by media as chemistry professor Syed Hamid Husain. Husain reportedly shot back at the gunmen with a pistol to allow his students to flee.

Many of the dead were apparently shot in the head execution-style, TV footage showed.



Policemen stand beside blood on the floor at Bacha Khan university following the attack. GETTY IMAGES

"We were told by teachers to leave immediately. Some people hid in bathrooms."

A male student

housing where many students were sleeping.

"They came from behind and there was a big commotion," an unnamed male student told a news channel from a bed in Charsadda's District Hospital.

Thirty five of the wounded remain in hospital, a local police official said late Wednesday.

The gunmen attacked as the university prepared to host a poetry recital Wednesday afternoon to commemorate the death anniversary of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, a popular ethnic Pashtun independence activist after whom the university is named.

Vice Chancellor Fazal Rahim told reporters the university teaches over 3,000 students and was hosting an additional 600 visitors for the poetry recital. REUTERS

The militants, using the cover of thick, wintry fog, scaled the walls of the university Wednesday morning before entering buildings and opening fire on students and teachers in classrooms and hostels, police said.

Students told media they saw several young men wielding AK-47 guns storming the university

BRIEF

Russian bombs take toll in Syria as Islamic State under pressure

Four months of Russian air strikes in Syria are taking their toll on rebel forces, strengthening the hand of a defiant President Bashar al-Assad as the United Nations struggles to get peace talks off the ground.

Insurgents in the west are being hit harder, while in eastern and central parts of the country, Islamic State is also under military pressure and is cutting fighters' pay as its oil-smuggling operations are hit by plunging prices.

Rebel groups are reporting intensified air strikes and ground assaults in areas of western Syria that are of great importance to Assad. The government last week made one of its most significant gains since the start of the Russian intervention, capturing the town of Salma in Latakia province.

While recent gains do not appear to mark a tipping point in the conflict, with rebels fighting back and regaining positions in some places, insurgents describe high levels of attrition on the front lines of western Syria. REUTERS

Shoulder Arthritis Treatments Keeping Boomers Active Into Their 60's, 70's Even 80's?

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Researchers: Possible planet beyond Neptune



Artist's rendering shows the distant view from "Planet Nine" back toward the sun, in this handout photo provided by the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in Pasadena, California. CALTECH/IPAC HANDOUT

The solar system may host a ninth planet that is about 10 times bigger than Earth and orbiting far beyond Neptune, according to research published Wednesday.

Computer simulations show the mystery planet, if it exists, would

orbit about 20 times farther away from the sun than Earth, said astronomers with the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

So far, the planet has not been observed directly.

"It's a pretty substan-

tial chunk of our solar system that's still out there to be found," astronomer Mike Brown said in a statement.

The research is published in this week's *Astronomical Journal*.

REUTERS

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Pals say Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth are doomed

All signs point to Miley Cyrus barreling right back into her relationship with ex-fiancé Liam Hemsworth, and her friends aren't thrilled. First the exes spent the holidays together with his family in Australia, then she started sporting her engagement ring again just as she was spotted driving a U-Haul over to his Malibu home. So what could possibly go wrong? According to her friends, who think Cyrus is crazy and the relationship is "doomed," a whole lot. "Liam already broke Miley's heart once, and a lot of people around her are warning her that he will do it again," a source tells Radar Online. "But she is not listening to anyone right now."

But friends be damned, how are things going over in Hemsworth-Cyrus Land? "They needed time apart to realize how much they love each other and want to be together. They've lived a lot in the last year few years and think things will be different," a source tells E! News. "They wanted to work on rebuilding things before they went public. They are both very happy about where things are and going to see what happens." Sure, why not?



ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

the word

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Katie Holmes not a fan of the Internet

What did Katie Holmes learn from playing a woman with bipolar disorder in her new film, "Touched With Fire?" That the Internet is terrible. Wait, hear me out on this. As the former Mrs. Tom Cruise explains to *More* magazine, "I gained a greater empathy for people who are struggling with mental illness" while making the film, due out next month. "Before the movie, I'd hear something about it

and think, 'Wow. But that's over there.' Unfortunately, we're quick to judge, especially in this day of social media and the Internet — which I think is an ugly-maker. Everybody looks ugly when they're on the Internet. But I wouldn't want to live a flat life, with no pain." Actually, Ms. Holmes, I'll have you know that some people look really, really cute on the Internet, so stop judging. But I will concede that "ugly-maker" is a great phrase, if a bit of a Mentos ripoff.



Tyra Banks' 'FABLife' canceled after one season

It looks like Tyra Banks' latest daytime venture, "The FABLife," couldn't really survive without her, as two months after she announced her departure, Disney-ABC Domestic Television is canceling, according to the Hollywood

Reporter. "We're extremely proud of everyone involved with the show," company President Janice Marinelli says. "We are especially appreciative of our talented and dynamic co-hosts Chrissy Teigen, Joe Zee, Leah Ashley and Lauren Makk." But it would've been better if Banks were still doing it, right? Hey, maybe Banks knew something we didn't.



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Spilling secrets on 'London Spy'

Novelist Tom Rob Smith reveals his unique approach to TV drama and intrigue.



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British writer Tom Rob Smith makes his first foray into writing for television with the twisting, mysterious "London Spy," about a young Londoner (Ben Whishaw) whose hunt for the truth behind his lover's murder opens a web of intrigue leading to British intelligence giant MI6. So what's the secret to crafting a good mystery? A good love story, according to Smith.

Your first work, "Child 44," was a novel adapted into a movie. How did making this, which was a TV series from the start, change your approach to the material?
I didn't have any TV experience, but I knew that I wanted to tell the story and I knew it was TV. I knew it wasn't

film, and I also knew it wasn't a book. It's first-person narrative through the eyes of the main character, played by Ben Whishaw, but he didn't go to university. He's an ordinary guy working a kind of dead-end job. He was never going to write it down or have a voice that would work on the page. He's a visual character. So I knew it was going to be TV.

Is that a kind of intuition, knowing what each story is meant to be first?

Yeah, I think it is. Afterwards you can pick apart why you thought that was the case, but there certainly is a gut feeling. A book I'm working on now — which will take forever because it's enormous — probably could be something else, but it needs to be a book first, and I can't quite explain it.

How did you approach



Ben Whishaw tries to unravel a mystery in "London Spy," premiering tonight at 10 p.m. on BBC America. LAURENCE CENDROWICZ



Smith GETTY IMAGES

telling this story over several episodes?

One of the things I love about TV is you have more time. The conventional story — your partner is murdered and you take on the question of who murdered them — has been told countless times. With this, we have enough time to work out what their love story is without it being a short-hand. Love stories aren't all the same — we fall in love for completely different reasons. I wanted to understand that these two people were both lost for very different reasons. I wanted us as an audience to really connect with them before we ripped them apart.

What about getting into the MI6 world for this?

There were two central mysteries at the heart of it: First, what happened? Was he murdered or was he actually involved in these sexual practices and did he go wrong?

The second question is, who was he? Often in these stories, the lover is kind of a fixed point, unchanging throughout the whole thing. But I wanted that character to change across the series. In this investigation

that Ben goes on, he gets closer to the person through all the different elements of who they are. That was the second part of the mystery, because I think that people are a mystery that we encounter every day.

Second chances

The series just wrapped up in the U.K. Is it strange to have it launching again so soon for a new audience over here?

It's the same, actually, with books. They're always staggered. The truth is, they're completely unpredictable.

But I think the process of discovery is really exciting. I always hope that people fall in love with it and it will do really well, so there's that feeling of great optimism at the beginning. And since it worked out in the U.K., I'm hoping it will get replicated.

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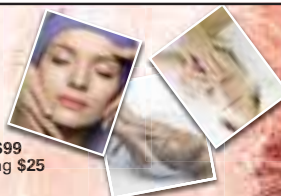
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Tim Robbins heads back to prison

The Oscar winner talks about his new drama "A Perfect Day" and his acting troupe's Prison Project.



MATT PRIGGE
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Tim Robbins is not your typical message-mongering liberal. From "Bob Roberts" and "Dead Man Walking" to the new "A Perfect Day," the actor-filmmaker is attracted to complexity, sometimes even playing the villain. His character in "Day" is a good guy though: an aid worker (with Benicio del Toro and Olga Kurylenko) in the Balkans in the mid-'90s, fighting bureaucratic red tape to help a village with a contamination problem. But he's no saint.

Like a lot of politically themed films you make, this isn't merely about good messages.

The fact that a script is dealing with an issue isn't enough for me to say yes. It has to meet certain criteria as far as how it's telling the story. From the very start with my theater company, we would get material that reflects on society. We were always looking for what is ironic about them, what it is that's humorous, and what is it about the other person's point of view that is legitimate. It's really important that your good intentions don't lead you into a didacticism that would undermine the subject matter.

Is that why you've often played characters who believe things you don't, like the right-wing politician in "Bob Roberts" or the apartheid police officer in "Catch a Fire"?
Yes. And those are always very challenging. On "Catch a Fire," part of my homework was hanging out with the guys who did the torturing and policing during apartheid. You have to find the reasons why people behaved in those abhorrent ways. I don't think it gets you very far if you say, "Well, this guy's just pure evil."

You've been busy lately with The Prison Project, which



Tim Robbins plays an aid worker in the Balkans trying to save a village from water contamination in "A Perfect Day," now on VOD. **IFC FILMS**

your troupe, The Actors' Gang, launched in 2006. It gives inmates acting classes. America is quite bad at rehabilitation.
We are bad at that. It's getting better. I've found [the program] is truly transformative, not only for the prisoners but for the Actors' Gang members. It's something that teaches them, sometimes for the first time, to work together with disparate elements. Our classes are integrated across racial barriers, and along gang barriers. When you have

a white supremacist and a member from the Bloods bonding over an emotion by playing characters, there's a deep connection.

Did this subject become even more of interest to you after doing films about prisoners?
It was the prison guards in "Shawshank" who told me what was wrong with the prison system. ... The guards described prison as essentially crime school — for nonviolent offenders to maybe exit prison a violent offender.

Listings

FOOD

Baguette Battle

Jan. 21, 6:30 p.m.
Sofitel New York, 45 W. 44th St.
\$30, Sofitel-new-york.com
French Morning magazine asked its readers who makes the best in NYC, and the 12 finalists — from the likes of Epicerie Boulud, Breads Bakery, La Boulangerie and Almondine — will face off in a blind taste test. Attendees will sample (and judge) all of the breads, accompanied by charcuterie, a cheese buffet, jam and wine.

Cochon555

Jan. 24, 4 p.m. VIP, 5 p.m. GA
William B. Seymour's
175 Broadway, Brooklyn
\$125-\$200, Cochon555.com
It's totally possible you'll find a new favorite way to eat pork than bacon this weekend at this culinary competition as five chefs, including Upland's Justin Smilie, take on the challenge of creating up to six dishes from one whole hog. There's also a Late Night Asian Speakeasy Dinner on Friday. EVA KIS

COMEDY

Sarah Silverman and Friends

Jan. 22, 8 p.m.
BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave.
\$44.50, BAM.org
Before Amy Schumer, the sassy lady of the comedy world was Sarah Silverman, a cynical feminist who never met a line she wouldn't pole-vault across. Catch this one-night-only standup show, where she'll get snarky with some special guests.

THEATER

BroadwayCon

Jan. 22-24
New York Hilton Midtown
1335 Avenue of the Americas
\$50-\$95, Broadwaycon.com
Theater fans can finally step away from online forums and share their love of Broadway in person at the first convention dedicated to the greats of the Great White Way. Meet your favorite stage stars, hear what goes on behind the curtain, shop the shows — or just sing showtunes outside of the shower.

SNOW!

Winter Jam

Jan. 23, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Central Park Bandshell, 72nd St.
Free, NYCgovparks.org
It's finally winter in NYC, and while your first instinct may be to hibernate until April, you can embrace the season with a football field's worth of snow. Try out winter sports like sledding, snowshoeing and skiing (with free lessons and equipment rental!), listen to live music and browse a made-in-NY market.

ARTS

Outsider Arts Fair

Jan. 21-24
Metropolitan Pavilion
125 18th St.
\$20-\$80, Outsiderartfair.com
If your taste in art doesn't align with the mainstream, check out works by self-taught artists at the Outsider Arts Fair, which homage to the rising counter-culture of art with pieces that normal people can actually afford.
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GETTY IMAGES

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things
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Black Mountain Wine House

415 Union St., Gowanus

This is the upstate cottage of your dreams, including shelves heaving with bottles of wine. The wood-burning fireplace in the back corner is a properly roaring affair to go with rustic fare of small plates like pork meatballs and truffle mac 'n' cheese. (There's also fondue on Tuesdays!) Even though this is a wine bar, they're not so precious about it that you can't get a warm mug of mulled wine this time of year.

The Press Lounge

653 11th Ave., Hell's Kitchen

Ink48 Hotel has the ultimate winter coup: dinner and drinks in the same spot. After the elevated farm-to-table fare at downstairs restaurant Print., head up to the roof for seasonal cocktails and wine in the Press Lounge's Sun Room. Retractable glass walls keep the 360-degree view of the city and Hudson River, while the sleek biofuel-burning fireplace lets you feel the zen of a Japanese rock garden without the risk of frostbite.

The Ludlow Lobby Lounge

180 Ludlow St., Lower East Side

Sinking into one of the mahogany leather sofas around the massive stone fireplace will thaw out even the deepest winter freeze. The Chai Matsuda (infused bourbon, Americano, cardamom, orange bitters) and Montecristo (Irish whiskey, crème de banane, amontillado, lime) cocktails help, too. And instead of waiting to get into the still-hot Dirty French, the restaurant serves a light bites menu fireside.

Camp

179 Smith St., Boerum Hill

What better way to feel warm than imagining you're back at summer camp? It's always those sun-dappled lazy days inside the log cabin that is Camp, where on-theme drinks like spiked hot chocolate are served on tree stump-like tables next to the fireplace. If you didn't score one of the prime seats near the crackling embers, you can order a miniature pot of flame tableside to roast marshmallows for s'mores.

Clover Club

210 Smith St., Cobble Hill

There aren't many excellent cocktail bars that also serve a brunch worth recommending, but Clover Club is special in many ways. For winter, swap the cozy brick walls of the main room and head back to find a wood-paneled hideaway with its own bar and a giant corner fireplace. The eclectic cocktail menu (when's the last time you saw shiitake-infused Japanese whiskey on a list?) is helpfully grouped by styles to guide your evening.

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New skills you can learn while traveling

If your 2016 resolutions included picking up a new skill, these hotels and destinations can help make the most of your vacation — and send you home with a brand new talent.

Fodor's Travel

Taking better photos

As Instagram addicts know, pictures today are worth more than a thousand words — they often take the place of words altogether. To help improve your shooting skills, hotels around the world offer expert-led photography experiences.

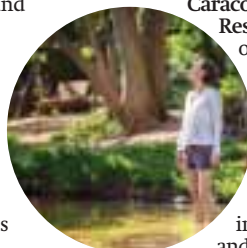
The just-opened **Hotel Taconic** in Vermont has partnered with award-winning local shutterbug Lee Jorgensen to lead excursions to Equinox Mountain, where he will offer instruction on getting the perfect shots — on both DSLRs and iPhones — in one of the state's most beautiful locations (starting at \$90 an hour).

Following a popular photo trip to Antarctica last year, **Exclusive Resorts** has once again engaged National Geographic photographer Ralph Hopkins to lead a photo-focused trip — this time to the Galapagos, where he will teach you how to capture the



islands' unique flora and wildlife (Sept. 17–26).

Meanwhile, on Sicily's Bay of Mazzaro, just below the postcard-perfect town of Taormina, guests of **Belmond Villa Sant'Andrea** can book a Food Photo experience that is part market visit and cooking class, part lesson on how to best plate, style and photograph food — useful skills, considering social media's obsession with what everyone is eating (prices vary).



2 Meditation

Disconnected, centered, focused, zoned-out — whatever you call it, sometimes it's important just to be quiet. Learn the basics of meditation with a guided lesson at Napa Valley's **Solage Calistoga**, during which the instructor might incorporate fresh herbs (to engage the senses of touch and smell) and Tibetan singing bowls to encourage relaxation.

Near Playa del Carmen, Mexico, **Sandos Caracol Eco Resort's** Path of the Senses experience includes a barefoot and blindfolded guided jungle walk to encourage introspection and positive



Take the farm-to-table trend home with you.

thoughts, while **Forest Bathing** — offered at hotels like **L'Auberge de Sedona** in Arizona and **The Mayflower Grace** in Connecticut — takes you to the forest for a series of contemplative activities, from journaling to targeted meditation.

3 Healthy cooking

Eating better is a perennial New Year's resolution, and in 2016, these spots can help take it from to-do list to reality. At the Cayman Islands' **Le Soleil d'Or**, a unique farm-to-table wellness resort, guests can get tips on how to best select produce during a tour of the

20-acre organic garden, then work side-by-side with the chef to learn how to prepare fresh and healthful dishes.

In California, **The Ranch at Live Oak** boot-camp offers an offshoot Culinary Experience led by chef Nina Curtis that focuses just on healthful eating. Available in three- or five-day courses, the hands-on workshop covers topics like soups and stocks, sauces and dry-heat cooking, as well as proper knife skills, kitchen organization and garden cultivation. Accommodations are not included, although the ranch can recommend area hotels. **SANDRA RAMANI**

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NHL power rankings | by Rich Slate

No. 1

Capitals (35-8-3)



The Capitals continue to be on an absolute tear as they aim for the top seed in the Eastern Conference and a Presidents' Trophy to boot. Washington has the most points (73) in the NHL and the best goal-differential (plus-55).



No. 4

Stars (29-13-5)



I'm not saying that they are frauds, but in reality we all knew that the Stars were overachieving when they started out this season on fire. Dallas is 2-6-2 in its last 10 games as it has dropped five points behind Chicago, into second-place in the Central Division.

No. 6

Panthers (26-15-5)



Similar to Dallas, I had a feeling that Florida's top-notch play was a house of cards. Now that they have lost their last three games, we can really start to see what the Panthers are made of. The Red Wings and Lightning are both only three points behind the Panthers for first-place in the Atlantic Division.

No. 8

Lightning (25-17-4)



Shame on you if you happened to write off the Lightning already in 2015-16. With most of the same roster back from the Eastern Conference champions of last season, this team has finally gotten healthy and not surprisingly, they are on a six-game winning streak.

No. 10

Bruins (24-16-5)



Has any other team been more up and down than the Bruins this season? Boston is seemingly always on a lengthy streak of some sort. Right now the B's have won their last three games including a 4-1 win at Montreal Tuesday. That result should finally put the Winter Classic debacle behind them.

No. 2

B'Hawks (32-13-4)



The only other club in Washington's galaxy is Chicago who, oh-by-the-way has won a franchise-record 12 games in a row after Tuesday's 4-1 victory at Nashville. Superstar right wing Patrick Kane leads the league in goals (30, tying his career-best already), assists (41) and points.

No. 3

Kings (29-13-3)



The Blackhawks understandably get the most attention these days but the Kings are another super consistent team in the Western Conference. LA leads second-place San Jose, Arizona and Vancouver (they are all tied with 49 points) by 12 points apiece in the Pacific Division.

No. 5

Blues (27-15-7)



This is a point that I repeat all the time but it's worth noting once again that St. Louis would be in first-place if it resided in either the Atlantic or Pacific but in the Central, 61 points puts the Blues squarely in third-place. The Blues have won their last two as they head out on a tricky four-game road trip.

No. 7

Rangers (25-16-6)



These days, a win at home against Vancouver isn't normally considered a turning point in a campaign but the Rangers hope that Tuesday's 3-2 overtime victory at Madison Square Garden vs. the Canucks gets them out of their recent funk. New York has been terrible on the road (8-11-3).

No. 9

Islanders (24-15-6)



Thus far, it's tough to gauge the Islanders since on paper they look like a quality team. When I've watched them this season, they have been anything but a contender. Their goal-differential is plus-11 and they are over .500 at home (15-7-3) and on the road (9-8-3) which are good indicators.

Best of the rest

- 11 — Red Wings (23-14-8)
- 12 — Wild (22-15-8)
- 13 — Devils (23-19-5)
- 14 — Sharks (23-18-3)
- 15 — Senators (22-18-3)
- 16 — Canadiens (23-20-4)
- 17 — Avalanche (23-20-4)
- 18 — Penguins (21-17-7)
- 19 — Coyotes (22-18-5)
- 20 — Canucks (19-17-11)
- 21 — Flyers (20-16-8)
- 22 — Predators (20-18-8)
- 23 — Hurricanes (20-19-8)
- 24 — Ducks (19-18-7)
- 25 — Jets (21-22-3)

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The Jets hope Marcus Williams is a better fit at cornerback than at safety, freeing up Antonio Cromartie's big bucks. GETTY IMAGES

Jets roster: 3 spots where the solution is better kept in-house

Free agency
isn't always
the solution.



KRISTIAN DYER
@KristianRDyer
sports@metro.us

Ahhh, silly season. Where every player in the NFL is seemingly linked to most, if not all of the 32 teams in the league. And for the New York Jets, it is no different.

"We're getting a Pro Bowl left tackle!"

"Let's sign this future Hall of Fame tight end!"

Reality flash here folks: It ain't happening.

And in this mindset, perhaps it is worth taking a look at exactly who on the Jets roster might be ready to take a step forward. After all, these are players who have been groomed and developed in the team's system and who might provide better value and longevity than someone currently set to enter free agency.

These are the players who understand the coaching staff, the locker room and the scheme.

Cornerback

There was plenty of angst throughout the season about the play of Antonio Cromartie, who the Jets signed as a free agent last offseason. Cromartie is beginning to see his

physical skillset diminish, a concern that could lead to him being cut or forced to sign a new, cap-friendly deal.

But it isn't bad news here as the Jets can replace the former Pro Bowl cornerback with Marcus Williams. Over the past two years with the Jets, the former North Dakota State product (who went undrafted) has the look and feel of being someone ready to shine. He's comfortable in press coverage, has above-average footwork and good hips.

Tight End

The production at the tight end position was negligible this year, a handful of catches to show for a position that once was one of strength for the Jets. When Jace Amaro went down in training camp with a torn labrum, the Jets lost their only true downfield threat at the position. Jeff Cumberland is a fine tight end and Kellen Davis is a good blocker but neither was dynamic this past year for the Jets.

The good news is that Quincy Enunwa emerged in the middle part of the season as a possible tight end option moving forward. He remains raw in terms of his blocking but he did a nice job getting open down field and becoming a bit of a threat

in the passing game.

And then there is Amaro, who is just a season removed from 38 catches in his rookie year as well as Zach Sudfeld, another long and lean tight end target who missed last year with his own injury. Amaro has his flaws, notably small hands that have led to some bad drops and there is his blocking which simply isn't good. But he is entering his third year and second offseason in the league. There is no reason to believe that he can't learn from his lumps.

Middle Linebacker

Fans expecting a bit more from the middle linebacker position have a very capable player in Erin Henderson, who can step in and start.

After missing last year following two DUI arrests, Henderson settled back into football with the Jets in a reserve role. Despite limited snaps, Henderson still compiled a relatively healthy 45 tackles.

He has the most mobility of any of the Jets current middle linebackers and in 2013, he had 112 tackles — a career high. There is also good news in terms of his durability: 2015 was the first time in his NFL career that he played all 16 games.

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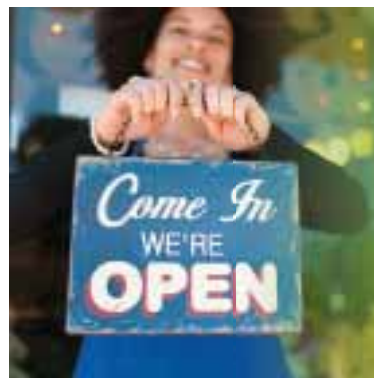
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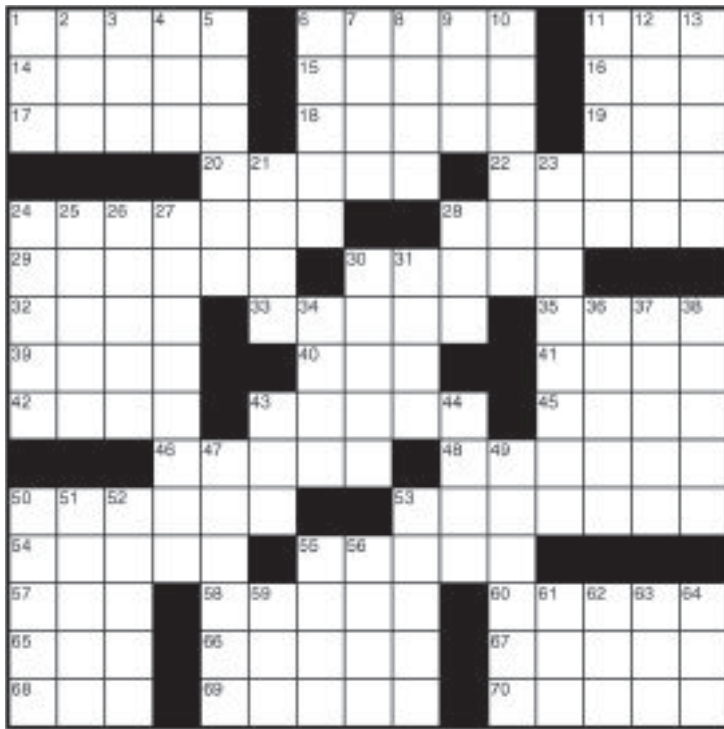
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Across

- 1 Verboten
- 6 Rock bottom
- 11 House buzzer
- 14 Pert
- 15 Waitress at Mel's
- 16 Job-ad letters
- 17 Treaties
- 18 Gives a rating
- 19 Rural rtes.
- 20 Implied
- 22 Slight trace
- 24 Dickens
- 28 Frame inserts
- 29 Stick fast
- 30 Loses traction
- 32 Hit dead-center
- 33 Dinner starter
- 35 Future turtles
- 39 Like some china
- 40 Bad, for Yves
- 41 — d'etat
- 42 Spring peeper
- 43 Gulf nation
- 45 Constellation bear
- 46 Reddish horses
- 48 They may be snowy
- 50 Go ashore
- 53 License
- 54 Jungian term
- 55 Don't enunciate
- 57 Laird's son
- 58 Kind of eclipse



- 60 Round numbers?
- 65 Poker card
- 66 — nous
- 67 Carve a canyon
- 68 — take forever!
- 69 Wets thoroughly
- 70 Avoid cancellation

Down

- 1 Kitchen meas.
- 2 Battery size
- 3 Tampa Bay NFLer
- 4 Harvest Moon mo.
- 5 Half-shell item
- 6 DEA agents
- 7 Jai —

- 8 By -- of hard work
- 9 Gross!
- 10 Just sat
- 11 Terrarium plants
- 12 Get stuck
- 13 Oui and si
- 21 Mars, to Plato
- 23 On shaky ground
- 24 Town near Lake Louise
- 25 Robin of balladry
- 26 Horned herbivore
- 27 Wire
- 28 Casserole cover
- 30 Shuts with a bang
- 31 Leafy vegetable
- 34 Famous last word
- 36 Flared, as a skirt
- 37 Zest
- 38 Involuntary jerk
- 43 Tibetan ox
- 44 Brain, maybe
- 47 Spouts rhetoric
- 49 Old coot
- 50 — Lama
- 51 Pass, as a bill
- 52 Waited awhile
- 53 Emery boards
- 55 Sundance Kid's girl
- 56 Carefree escapade
- 59 She loved Lennon
- 61 Previously
- 62 L. — Hubbard
- 63 Keats opus
- 64 Embroider

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easy

	1				2			
	9		5	3	6			2
	5			1		6	4	
1	7	3						5
				4				
8						9	2	3
	3	7		6				5
2			3	9	7		1	
			2				9	

hard

7	4	8			3			
3		5	9		4			
	9							6
6				5				1
	2	4				6	9	
1				4				3
4							5	
			1		5	3		4
			4			1	2	9

metro.us/horoscopes



Aries Be ready to leap into action if something unexpected develops. It's your ability to act quickly that will guide you to success. Talking will lead to conflict.



Taurus Talk with people who see things your way. Your ability to relay a workable solution will put you in a key position. A little muscle behind your plan is all that's required.



Gemini Deal with any controversy you face or problems that are affecting your home and relationships. If you fail to take action, someone else will put you in a precarious position.



Cancer Speak up and be willing to stand behind your ideas. Having a well-thought-out plan and the wherewithal to make it a reality will boost your confidence and your popularity.



Leo Strive for personal perfection. You can make improvements that will be admired by others and that can contribute to a better lifestyle. Make every move count.



Virgo Look at the possibilities, and think about one of your bigger ideas until you have flushed out all the flaws. Be creative, but don't lose sight of reality. Balance will be required.

Yesterday's answers



Can't wait until tomorrow to check your answers? Visit metro.us



Libra You need time to reflect and work quietly behind the scenes until you are fully ready to take on the task of getting others to support your plans.



Scorpio Your contributions will not go unnoticed. Your ability to see what's required to make something work will help you bring about positive change both at home and at work.



Sagittarius Emotional matters will escalate if you try to hide from problems. You are best off facing whatever dilemma comes your way head-on, so that you can move forward.



Capricorn Step into the spotlight and share your ideas. You will face opposition, but once you weed out who isn't on board, you can regroup and aim for success.



Aquarius Don't make waves, start fights or disrupt a situation that can have an impact on your future. Look for alternatives instead of walking away from a problem.



Pisces Not everyone will like your plans. Your presentations must be persuasive if you want to gain the approval you need to forge ahead.

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Rearrange the letters in each row to form a word. Write your answers into the blank grid. The first letter from each word, reading down, will spell the mystery word.

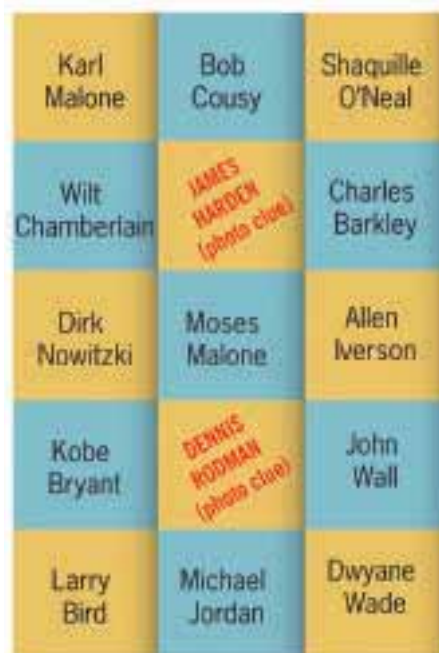


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QUIZ QUEST

Clues:

- Three-time NBA champion with the Heat
- The Round Mound of Rebound
- He spent 18 seasons with the Jazz
- He was born in 1978 and won an NBA Finals series in 2011
- 12-time NBA All-Star who passed away in September 2015
- Current chairman of the Charlotte Hornets
- He transferred from the Thunder to the Rockets in 2012
- The youngest player in NBA history to reach 30,000 career points
- The Big Dipper
- The Celtics have retired his #14 jersey
- Between 2009 and 2010, he played with the Cavaliers
- Born in 1990, he's spent his NBA career to date with the Wizards
- He had a brief spell with the UK's Brighton Bears after his NBA career
- He coached the Pacers between 1997 and 2000



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All the answers to the clues are in the boxes, either as a word or picture. Solve all the clues and cross off the boxes. One word will be left over. This is the mystery answer.

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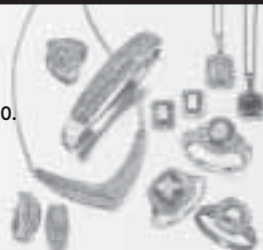
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